1: Hoebel E-5 (1933) 1940 NO6 Comanche NO6

"That evening just before dark the wife left his lodge and went to the tipi of her uncle. She arrived just as he and his wife were finishing eating. When they had finished their supper, they asked what might be on her mind. 'I have come to carry tales,' she said. 'Go on,' he replied. 'Well, your son-in-law, Cooks Dried Meat, accused me of being intimate with you, and he whipped me badly.' Her uncle was indignant. 'The brute, the bad thing, the devil—you shall not go back to him.' His mother and father were living in the same tipi, so he asked the woman to stay there.

"A little later there was the sound of something outside, and a voice said, 'I have come for the person who is visiting you.' 'Go home!' the uncle shouted back, 'she is staying here.' It was fall and cool enough to have a fire and eat indoors. They went to bed.

"The uncle's tipi was at one end of the encampment; the husband's was at the other. Just at white dawn a voice shouted out from the tipi of Cooks Dried Meat. 'Get ready Pítsku (the uncle). Prepare yourself!'

"It stirred a terrible commotion. Everybody woke up and asked what was going to happen and angry voices were heard. Cooks Dried Meat strode forth accompanied by his father, the aged peace chief, Tongue, and a young man. They went towards the tipi.

"Close to that tipi was one of an old man who lived with his grandson. He stuck his head out and received an arrow full in the throat. As his relatives pulled loose the shaft they cried, 'We shall wipe Cooks Dried Meat out. We shall join Pítsku to do this. Then they fired and killed Tongue. The fight was on. Pítsku got badly wounded in the rump. Hard by was my mother-in-law's tipi—a big one. Into this Pítsku scurried for shelter. Next the son of Cooks Dried Meat was killed, making two men shot on each side. Cooks Dried Meat came to my mother-in-law's tipi to get Pítsku, but the old woman warned him away. 'You don't kill him in my tent,' she threatened. 'If you do, it will not be well for you. The man of this house is a great warrior and a strong medicine man. It will go ill with you if you shed blood in his tipi.'

"By that time a group of men had intervened. 'Stop it,' they ordered. 'It is enough that two men have been killed on either side. Stop.'

"Cooks Dried Meat then fled from the camp. He was chased by the grandson of the old man he had shot in the throat, but he escaped and never came back to the band. He moved away from it.

"Pítsku died of blood-poisoning. Tongue was the peace chief. If he had not taken his son's side, it would have been his duty to have stopped the fighting."

Other acts which to the Comanches were so heinous as to warrant lethal retaliation on the aggressor were the slaying of a favorite horse, and insulting conduct which was insufferable to the aggrieved. These factors appear severally in different cases, but are combined into one single complication in a famous Comanche case known to many informants. There are slight variations in the telling, but the main points of action remain the same.